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The present note relative to diagnosis of rodent plague is presented therefore with the intention of emphasizing the fact that the macroscopic method of diagnosis has its limitations as well as the microscopic, and that it is advisable to supplement the former by the latter method, placing the greater dependence on the naked-eye appearance and making all possible diagnoses thereby, but nevertheless employing the microscopic examination of "smears" from tissues, as a "second line of defense."

BREAD AS A FOOD.

In the Public Health Reports for April 14, 1916 (p. 935), there appeared an article under the following heading: "Bread as a food," with a subheading, "Changes in its vitamine content and nutritive value with reference to the occurrence of pellagra." The facts set forth as regards pellagra have not been challenged, but as some erroneous inferences concerning the value of white flour and of bread made from it have been drawn from the paper, it appears desirable to submit the following statement:

The paper referred to presented the results of certain of the studies which are being made on pellagra and was designed to demonstrate primarily that when a diet poor in essential food elements aside from cereals was constantly used, it appeared likely that if the carbohydrate element contained a liberal amount of the accessory food substances known to be contained in whole grains, the probability of pellagra developing was less than when the starchy element of food was deficient in these substances.

From the broad view of nutrition, it is very probably immaterial what kind of flour is used in making bread provided that an adequate mixed diet is consumed which will supply sufficient of the essential dietary components outside of the cereals contained in the diet. It may be added that the great majority of the people in this country live on a well-balanced, sufficient, mixed diet.